

House File 2261 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2261
BY BURT

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to requirements for certain interscholastic
2 athletic contests and competitions.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 256.46, Code 2009, is amended to read as
2 follows:

3 **256.46 Rules for participation in extracurricular activities**
4 **by certain children.**

5 The state board shall adopt rules that permit a child who
6 does not meet the residence requirements for participation
7 in extracurricular interscholastic contests or competitions
8 sponsored or administered by an organization as defined in
9 section 280.13 to participate in the contests or competitions
10 immediately if the child is duly enrolled in a school, is
11 otherwise eligible to participate, and meets one of the
12 following circumstances or a similar circumstance: the child
13 has been adopted; the child is placed under foster or shelter
14 care; the child is living with one of the child's parents
15 as a result of divorce, separation, death, or other change
16 in the child's parents' marital relationship, or pursuant to
17 other court-ordered decree or order of custody; the child is a
18 foreign exchange student, unless undue influence was exerted
19 to place the child for primarily athletic purposes; the child
20 has been placed in a juvenile correctional facility; the child
21 is a ward of the court or the state; the child is a participant
22 in a substance abuse or mental health program; or the child is
23 enrolled in an accredited nonpublic high school because the
24 child's district of residence has entered into a whole grade
25 sharing agreement for the pupil's grade with another district.
26 The rules shall permit a child who is otherwise eligible to
27 participate, but who does not meet one of the foregoing or
28 similar circumstances relating to residence requirements, to
29 participate at any level of competition other than the varsity
30 level. For purposes of this section and ~~section~~ sections
31 280.13 and 282.18, "varsity" means the highest level of
32 competition offered by one school or school district against
33 the highest level of competition offered by an opposing school
34 or school district.

35 Sec. 2. Section 280.13, Code 2009, is amended to read as

1 follows:

2 **280.13 Requirements for interscholastic athletic contests and**
3 **competitions.**

4 1. A public school shall not participate in or allow
5 students representing a public school to participate in any
6 extracurricular interscholastic athletic contest or competition
7 which is sponsored or administered by an organization as
8 defined in this section, unless the organization is registered
9 with the department of education, files financial statements
10 with the department in the form and at the intervals prescribed
11 by the director of the department of education, and is in
12 compliance with rules which the state board of education adopts
13 for the proper administration, supervision, operation, adoption
14 of eligibility requirements, and scheduling of extracurricular
15 interscholastic athletic contests and competitions and the
16 organizations.

17 2. A student enrolled in a school district who failed
18 coursework for which credit is given at the end of a grading
19 period may be allowed by the school district to participate in
20 an athletic contest or competition other than at the varsity
21 level. For purposes of this subsection, "varsity" means the
22 same as defined in section 256.46.

23 3. For the purposes of this section "*organization*" means
24 a corporation, association, or organization which has as one
25 of its primary purposes the sponsoring or administration
26 of extracurricular interscholastic athletic contests or
27 competitions, but does not include an agency of this state,
28 a public or private school or school board, or an athletic
29 conference or other association whose interscholastic contests
30 or competitions do not include more than twenty-four schools.

31

EXPLANATION

32 This bill permits a school district to allow a student to
33 participate in athletic contests and competitions at all but
34 the varsity level if the student failed coursework for which
35 credit is given.

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1 Administrative rules currently require all contestants
2 to pass all coursework for which credit is given and to be
3 making adequate progress toward graduation requirements at
4 the end of each grading period. A student who fails a course
5 is ineligible to dress for and compete in the next occurring
6 interscholastic athletic contests and competitions in which the
7 student is a contestant for 30 consecutive calendar days.